

LDRD Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Why the prescribed LDRD submission process and changes to it?
 - Starting in FY2015, **only full LDRD proposal are requested for the compliance screening and down-selection for review.** Proposals are accepted in *April of the previous FY*, so that review and selection process is completed before August for submission to Site Office.
 - **LDRD pre-proposals for are no longer required for compliance screening and request for full proposal for review.** Project down-selection for review is better done via a full proposal. Moreover, elimination of pre-proposals will speed up and improve review process.
 - For a proposed mid-year LDRD start, make the request to submit a full LDRD proposal for screening, and, if instructed (depending on availability of LDRD mid-year funding) submit a proposal in FY January.
- How long can a LDRD project be funded?
 - LDRD projects are limited to a maximum period of performance of 36 months. Projects requiring funding beyond one fiscal year may be considered for funding in out years, but must re-approved yearly with performance as a metric.
 - **No commitment is made for out-year funding when a project requests multi-year funding.**
 - **Upon receipt of Annual Report and identified accomplishments in proposed work, out year funding may be secured.** However, due to lack of progress or approach is found to be not appropriate, the project may be de-funded for out years or be asked to re-competed.
- What are appropriate expenditures in LDRD projects?
 - LDRD projects may be charged the same allowable costs associated with similar lab R&D activities, including fully burdened payroll, benefits, materials and supplies, necessary equipment to perform the LDRD research, travel to user facilities in direct support of a project or support for participation by non-lab personnel.
 - Travel to conduct LDRD work (e.g., user facilities) will be supported. **Conference and other discretionary travel cannot be supported.**
 - You cannot use LDRD funds to: Substitute or increase funding for tasks that are funded by DOE or other users of the laboratory; Fund projects that will require non-LDRD funds to accomplish the technical goals of the LDRD project; Fund general purpose capital equipment not clearly required for the project. (See other restrictions in *Guidelines and Policy* training at <http://www.ameslab.gov/LDRD>.)
 - Subcontracts are permitted with restrictions, as noted in the *Guidelines and Policy* training.
- Who may submit a LDRD proposal?
 - Only an Ames Laboratory associated P37+ scientists or faculty can be the PI on a LDRD Proposal. (Note: Below P37 requires a Director's waiver, such as often done for DOE Early Career Awards, and, while

possible, would have to be compelling. Information about this process is available.) For LDRD proposals only, co-PIs can be from post-doctoral researchers and below P37 without requesting a Director's waiver, but the post-docs must have permission from their direct supervisor.

- **May a Post-Doctoral Researcher submit an LDRD proposal?**
 - No rules prevent this, but it requires a Director's waiver. However, given that post-docs are hired to work on a specific project, they may be co-PI only if their supervisor is either lead PI or has given permission to another Ames Lab PI to include them on the proposal. (See *Guidelines and Policy* training for key factors.)
- **May an off-site collaborator be a PI and submit proposal?**
 - NO, the PI must be from the Ames Lab.
 - They can be co-PI and receive financial support to achieve goals. (This category includes ISU faculty who are not Ames Lab associates; but they cannot be a PI.)
- **How should participation in LDRD proposal be noted?**
 - **Principle Investigator (PI) and co-PIs** are expected to receive some direct salary support through the project and/or support lab staff, scientists, and/or post-docs. For LDRD, the PI is responsible for LDRD reporting and has authority for logistics and financial expenditures. Co-PIs share responsibility for leading and directing the research, and providing necessary materials for yearly reporting to the U.S. Congress. Typically these two groups co-author the reports and publications.
 - **Collaborators** can be included to show direct support but cannot receive financial support from the LDRD project. They should be included only if they interact with PIs and other key scientific personnel and they make substantive measurable contributions to the project, including publications.
- **What are the characteristics of a good proposal; what are the full proposal requirements; and how will proposals be assessed?**
 - See *Guidelines and Policy* training, slides 18-19 and 24.
- **If a full LDRD Proposal is not selected for review, when will PI be notified?**
 - Late April or early May, proposals down-selected for review will be decided, and, for those declined for review, the PIs will be notified.
- **For funded LDRD proposals, what are expectations for programs?**
 - LDRD funds are already fully burdened (no additions necessary in budget worksheets – it is just like standard project). Hence, the expectation is that the Division or Program will administer the project and provide the LDRD coordinator information as needed for oversight.